Year	Khadi		Village Industries	
	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan
Tamil Nadu				
1994-95	1031.12	561.68	344.88	673.96
1995-96	1589.97	199.25	13.52	55.58
1996-97 [upto Oct'96]	460.00	156.89	3.33	63.12

(b) KVIC provides financial assistance to state Khadi and Village Industries Boards, institutions and cooperative societies. Since 1995-96 financial assistance are also being provided to individuals. Firms are not provided financial assistance by KVIC either directly or through Boards. As per procedure, any institution seeking direct assistance from KVIC has to be directly enlisted with KVIC. The bye-laws of the institutions are examined thoroughly and financial standing also seen before release of any loan to the institution. Compliance with this procedure minimizes the chances of misuse of KVIC funds.

(c) and (d) Several complaints have been received and appropriate action has been taken to deal with them in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Development of steel sector in the North East

*351. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to identify programmes for the North East region in the steel sector;

(b) whether Government are also considering to set up such committees in respect of other regions as well; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Steel have constituted a committee to identify the programmes for North-East region and monitor their implementation.

(b) No, Sir. Ministry of Steel has no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Total expenditure incurred on computerisation in EPF organisation

*352. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total expenditure incurred on computerisation in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) organisation till 31st March, 1996 giving year-wise and region-wise break-up for the last three years, on machinery-instruments-raw material, building renovation, air conditioning and stationery;

(b) whether some other expenses for some other purposes have also been debited in the computer expenditure account;

(c) whether the outsider operators are being deployed on 30 paise per entry whereas the staff is deprived of any extra benefits; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take any action for the misuse of public money and manipulation of A/c Head; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to

(d) The expenditure incurred on establishment of E.D.P. Centres, purchase of computer hardware, software, peripherals and payments for data entry work is debited to Budget Head of Computerisation in the EPF Organisation. The informatioin relating to total expenditure in this regard, region-wise and year-wise, during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). Entry of data into computer is expected to be handled by the staff of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The outsider operators need to be deployed only if the work load cannot be accomplished in time by the EPF Organisation Staff. In such cases these operators are paid on per entry basis at rates fixed according to the prescribed procedure which can vary from place to place. The Employees' Provident Fund-Staff are also paid suitable incentives/ honorarium as per rules, if the data entering work is handled by them in addition to their regular job. No misuse of public money has been reported by the EPFO in ths regard.

Statement

Total expenditure incurred on computerisation in the EPF Organisation during the last 3 years, region-wise

S. No.	Region	Amount spent Rs. (In'000) during		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1199.83	1707.37	1426.19
2.	Bihar	—	847.76	192.08
3.	Delhi	193.09	2081.98	575.37
4.	Gujarat	—	1407.16	—
5.	Haryana	—	789.69	—
6.	Karnataka	261.04	1115.02	1759.66
7.	Kerala	123.50	1557.32	364.56
8.	Madhya Pradesh	978.51	547.40	529.11
9.	Maharashtra	2661.75	3319.04	2666.84
10.	N.E. Region	36.57	1060.59	131.83
11.	Orissa	181.08	674.55	71.03
12.	Punjab	1038.09	1236.62	34.44
13.	Rajasthan	430.41	920.35	80.91
14.	Tamil Nadu	1089.46	897.00	669.68
15.	Uttar Pradesh	—	795.27	40.76
16.	West Bengal	929.38	1715.02	899.63
17.	Central Office	76.97	5566.26	437.43
18.	NATRSS	874.13	—	—

Increase in wage ceiling and rates of contribution towards ESIC

*353. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently enhanced the extent of increase in the wage ceiling and rates of contribution towards the Employees' State Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, to what extent alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that most of the contributors are low paid employees;